

Fine crop of achievements

Jeffrey Keith Clift

Farmer, agricultural company director

Born: April 24, 1939; Ardrossan

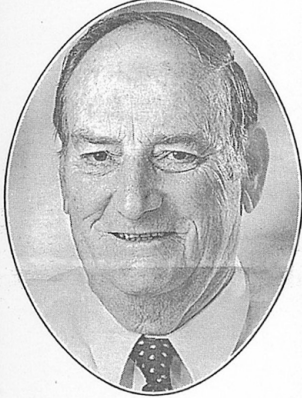
Died: May 18, 2006; Adelaide

JEFF Clift was a significant figure in the South Australian grain industry. During his career, he served as an SA Cooperative Bulk Handling (later AusBulk) director and chairman, a United Grower Holdings Ltd board member and a director of ABB Grain Ltd.

The youngest of four children born to Andrew and Gladys Clift of Pine Point, Jeff, aged four, began his education at the local school to help maintain student numbers.

His secondary schooling was at King's College where he boarded from 1951 to '55. Afterwards, he returned to the family farm to help his father and brothers, Howard and Rex. The family bred and showed Clydesdale horses at the Royal Adelaide Show. In 1962, Jeff obtained his wool classing certificate from the SA Institute of Technology. This took him across the state and to western Victoria.

In the same year, Jeff married Glynis Wheare (they'd met at Ardrossan's 1958 Easter dance). He initially sharefarmed at Sandilands before moving back to the



Clift homestead at Pine Point in 1980. Jeff is remembered as an efficient farmer "who could buy two farms in five years when other farmers were going broke". He had a large and active part in the Ardrossan district community. He played footy for Ardrossan (even having a "run" with West Adelaide), golf at the Ardrossan and Port Vincent Club, was involved with Ardrossan and Districts Lions Club (president 1979-80) and the local retirement home.

But it's his long-standing commitment to the grains industry for which he's best remembered. Jeff was the longest-serving grains industry director in SA, and probably only surpassed in Australia by Sir Mick Gayfer's 37 years as director with Cooperative Bulk Handling in WA. Jeff was an SA Cooperative Bulk Handling (later AusBulk) director from 1970 to 2004 (SACBH chairman from 1984 to '96), United Grower Holdings Ltd board member (2000-04) and a director of ABB Grain Ltd from September, 2004, until his retirement in February.

Jeff's farming success carried through to SACBH. His legacy was that, while chairman, SACBH built storage for 2.6 million tonnes of grain across the state. He drove initiatives to improve on-farm hygiene, drastically reducing the incidence of stored grain insect pests. Always the mentor, Jeff also took pride that during his chairmanship, SACBH developed a cadet scheme aimed at bringing new blood into the industry. He is survived by wife Glynis, children Roger and Lynette and four grandchildren.